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A POSSIBLE STATE IN THE PACIFIC. GOSSIP UPON THE EXPEDIENCY OF ANNEXING THEM TO THE UNITED STATES. [BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON.

Washington, Dec. 29 .- Some interest begins to be felt here in the condition of affairs in the Sandwich Islands. It is asserted by persons who are familiar with that annexation to the United States has long been favored, except by the numerous Government officials, se interests lie in the direction of a continuance of the expensive and ridiculous sham monarchy that has just come to an end by the death of the King without a egitimate successor. The commercial and agricultural interests of the islands are almost entirely in the hands of Americans, and it is believed that the timely exercise of the influence of the United States would lead to the Government, and ultimately to annexation. The remarkable fertility of the islands, their delightful climate, and their situation in the pathway of the commerce of the Pacific, would undoubtedly attract a large emigration from this country and from Europe. If they had a government that would encourage the development of industry and trade, instead of retarding it by me taxation to maintain a farcical royalty, it is claimed that a population of over one million could be inhabitants, natives and foreigners.

The advocates of annexation meet the objection that to acquire the Hawailan group would be to disregard the to acquire the Hawalian group would be to disregard the traditionary continental policy of the United States, which has always stood in the way of the acquirement of outlying colonies or dependencies of any kind, by citing the case of the purchase of Alaska, where we annexed the whole Aleanan chain of islands, stretching clear across the Pacific Orean to the shores of Asia. They say, with some force, that if there was any sense in this acquiring some hundreds of barren islands, peopled by savages, there can be no valid objection to the annexation of a ferrile group of great commercial importance, where civilized modes of life prevail, and where over own clinens already exercise a controlling interest in the affairs of business and government.

INCREASING MILITARY AND NAVAL CADET-SHIPS.

PROVISION TO BE MADE FOR ADDITIONAL AP-POINTMENTS-PROPOSITIONS TO AMEND THE LAW AND AVOID INCREASE.
[FROM A REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]

Washington, Dec. 29 .- In examining the estimates of appropriations for the support of the Navy for the ensuing fiscal year the House Appropriations Committee find that it is necessary to make provision for the support of 49 additional midshipmen at the Naval Academy. The law authorizes the appointment of one the Apportionment law of last session increased the number of members of the House from 243 to 292, it follows that a corresponding increasejmust be made in the number of midshipmen unless fsome ichange be made in the law in relation to their appointment. The same increase must also be made in the number of cadets at the Military Academy, the laws relating to appointments being alike for the two institutions. If Congress takes no action in the matter, 49 original vacancies in each Academy will, therefore, exist on the 4th of March next, to be filled on the recommendations of Congressmen from the districts having no representative in the

from the districts having no representative in the academies.

The Appropriations Committee do not think it desirable that this increase should be made. Looking at the increased expense it will devolve upon the Government, and doubting the necessity of enlarging the caucity of either academy, they are disposed to report some legislation limiting the number of cadets and midshipmen so that it shall not exceed the present force. This could be done by providing that appointments to the two academies from each Congress District should be made once in five years maked of once in four, retaining the present four-years' rourse of study. Another plan suggested is to lengthen the course of study. Another plan suggested is to lengthen the course of study to five years, as has frequently been recommended by Boards of Visitors and the academic authorities. This plan would not obviate the necessity of increasing the number of cadets and midshipmen to correspond with the increased number of Congress Districts, but it would make the yearly graduations no more numerous than at present, and would not overstock the army and navy with a too large supply of new-fledged efficers, fresh from West Point or Aucapolis. The Committee will have the Secretaries of War and the Navy before them next week, and will obtain their views upon the question before coming to any decision.

Another discovery made in connection with the Navai Appropriation bili is that the cost of maintening the Marine Corps is largely increased by the law of last sessor, increasing the pay of private soldiers and non-commissioned efficers of the army. The pay of the Marine Corps is narised the other follows without further legislation. The increased amount which most be appropriated for the corps is estimated at \$00,000.

CURIOSITIES OF POSTAL LAW.

IMPERFECT PREPAYMENT NO PAYMENT AT ALL-AN UNEQUAL TAX ON NEWSPAPERS. [FROM A REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]

VASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—The recent order of the Postmaster-General directing postmasters to collect double the amount unpaid on letters only partially pre-paid, thus making no account of the stamps placed upon such letters, has, as has before been reported, been pro nounced without warrant of law by the House Post-Office Committee, and will no doubt have to be rescinded. Beside this unjust and unwarrantable regulation, another, fully as indefensible and even more annoying, has been put in force in relation to drop letters. Such letters, if only partially prepaid, are not delivered at all, but are retained and advertised as "unmailable." For example, a letter was mailed in this city on Tuesday last to a gentleman having a box in the city post-office. By mistake, a one cent stamp was affixed instead of a two; cent stamp. On Friday the gentleman saw his name on the published list of persons to whom unmaliable letters had been addressed. On application at the office he was directed to the room of the chief cierk. That official informed him that he must go back to the stamp window and must have been application.

at the office he was directed to the room of the chief clerk. That official informed him that he must go back to the stamp-window and purchase a one-cent stamp before he could have his letter. He would not receive the cent in money, but insisted on the stamp, which he stuck on the letter and canceled in due form. The result of this performance was that the gentleman got his letter too late for important information it contained to be of any service to him. Under the old system, before the postal authorities seem to have lost their common sense and took to annoving people and hindering the delivery of their mail by absurd interpretations of law, such a letter would have been put in the owner's box, and the deficient postage would have been charged in the quarteriy account against the box; or it would have been delivered by a carrier, if the owner had no box, the carrier collecting the one cent due.

Another decision, equally unwarrantable and deserving of censure, already referred to in print, is that requiring the prepayment, by one cent atamps, of all newspapers delivered by carrier in the cities in which they are published. The Department will transport a daily mewspaper printed here from Washington to San Francisco, and deliver it to a subscriber there for 30 cents a quarter; but if the subscriber lives here in Washington, he must pay one cent for each copy, or rather this must be prepaid for him by the publishers of the paper. So with weekly papers, the poetage on which is five cents a quarter. For this sum the mails will carry a paper from Maine to Texas, and the carrier will deliver it without extra charge at the subscriber's door; but a subscriber tiving in the place where the paper is published must be prepaid for him by the publishers of the paper. So with weekly papers, the poetage on which is five cents a guarter. For this sum the mails will carry a paper from Maine to Texas, and the carrier will deliver it without extra charge at the subscriber's door; but a subscriber invited in the paper is publis

CONGRESSMEN AS CLAIM AGENTS. HOW THE LAW IS EVADED BY MEMBERS AND AGENTS.

FROM THE REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE! Washington, Dec. 29 .- An abuse in the Civil Service, which, more than "almost any other needs re-form, grows out of the direct and indirect legal practice of members of Congress in the Departments. As is well known, members of Congress are forbidden to appear as attorneys for any claim against the Government, and they generally obey the letter of this law; but every cinim agent or attorney who has found his paper pigeon-holed in some subordinate office, or his case likely to be decided adversely, knows how potent the simple "request" of a member of Congress often is. The module operandi, as explained by " one who knows," is as follows: Euppose a claim has passed through the hands of the law officer of a Department or Bureau and he has given an adverse opinion, or vice versa, the head of a Department or Bureau has examined the case himself and is likely to reject it, the agent will of course desire, in the first case, to have the Secretary or Commissoner give it a personal examination, and in the second, to have it take the customary course. To effect this requires an order from the head of the Department or Bureau which the agent finds himself unable to obtain. If the case is one of considerable importance, the exact condition of it is known among claim agents generally, and the attorney in charge of it receives a private intimation that a certain member of Congress can secure the order desired, and that a certain other man can interest the member in the case. The last named man receives a generous fee, the honorable member of Congress receives anything for his trouble, but the suspicion is strong that he does. It should not be inferred that all members of Congress are engaged in this indirect practice in the Departments: there are many whose influentees in the Departments; there are many whose influentees in the Departments; there are many whose influentees the case in the Departments; there are many whose influentees the case in the Departments; there are many whose influentees the case in the Departments; there are many whose influentees the case in the departments; there are many whose influentees the case in the departments; there are many whose influentees the case in the departments. given an adverse opinion, or vice versa, the head of a De-

ence no claim agent has ever been able to buy, and whom nobody pretends to influence. But there are not a few men in Congress whose services every claim agent in Washington professes his ability to obtain, and whose next friend is known of all men.

The evils of this practice have more than once been recognized by Congress. The act forbidding members of Congress to act as agents for claims against the United States reformed the abuse in a measure, but does not prevent men of easy conscience from evading it as has been described above. Bills intended to strike at the root of the matter have at various times been introduced in either House, but have never passed beyond a second reading. The remaining days of this Congress are too few to expect from it any important reforms, least of all one like thus, which would be strongly opposed and give rise to a long debate.

PREMATURE SPECULATIONS UPON THE SPEAKER-SHIP OF THE NEXT HOUSE-SECRETARY BOUT-WELL'S SUCCESSOR — JUDGE STRICKLAND'S RESIGNATION—MR. BRISBANE'S PNEUMATIC TUBE—PROBABLE DEFEAT OF THE TWO PER

> (BY TELEGRAPHITO THE TRIBUNE.) WASHINGTON, Dec. 29, 1872.

The conjectures in | regard to the Speakership of the next House of Representatives are, of course, all premature, especially in view of the fact that the election is still nearly a year distant. The only candidates thus far named are Mr. Blaine, Mr. Wheeler, Mr. Dawes. and Mr. Maynard. Mr. Blaine is to-day, without doubt, stronger than all the others together, and as new mem bers, such as those who will constitute so large a pro portion of the next House, are generally greatly influenced in the choice of officers by those of longer experfence, he would now, in all probability, be the suc cessful candidate. But between this and the close of the session events may occur which will entirely change the situation. No one can foresee what may be the resuit of the Crédit Mobilier investigation, or how far it will shake the confidence of the country in the integrity of leading members of Congress. To say the least, nearly all of those whose names were mentioned in connection with the scandal last Sumer, and who made denials which led their friends to believe that they had never, even in any indirect way, derived benefit from the stock, are now in an embarrassing position, and if the investigation is enlarged in its scope, so as to lay open the secret operations of the Crédit Mobilier and show what members of Congress added by their efforts and their votes a few directors of the Union Pacific Railroad to enrich themselves at the expense of the road and of the Government, it is impossible to predict whose reputation will suffer. Specular suit of the Crédit Mobilier investigation, or how far

The President visited the Treasury Department, yes terday morning, and was for two hours in conference with Assistant Secretary Richardson. This circumstance has set the gossips to guessing who is to be Secretary Boutwell's successor, in case he should resign to take Boutwell's successor, in case he should resign to take the sent in the U.S. Senate to be made vacant by the resignation of Mr. Wilson. The President is reported to have the fullest confidence in Mr. Richardson as a man of sound judgment and great financial tact; and the friends of both have often conjectured since the election that Gen. Grant would attest his friendship and respect by inviting the Assistant Secretary to take charge of the Department after the 4th of March next. On the other hand, as is well known, Mr. Richardson has recently said that he did not desire the place, but that he should retire with his chief and engage in banking business in Europe. In such an event many believe that the President's choice for a Secretary of the Treasury would fall upon one of the prominent bankers of the country with whom the President is on such intimate personal terms.

The proposed resignation of Judge Strickland of the U.S. Court of Utah will leave the court there, as far as

U. S. Court of Utah will leave the court there, as far as is known, entirely in the hands of those who are in favor of the Newman policy of severe dealing with the Mormons. The feeling of the new District-Attorney, appointed since the meeting of Congress, is not fully known, but from some expressions dropped during his late visit to Washington, lit is believed that he will go as far as the law will allow in carrying on the Administration crusade against Mormonism. The majority of the present Congress seems disposed to let the Mormons alone, and to allow the more moderate of them an opportunity of urging their policy of a gradual abandonment of polygramy. What the temper of the next Congress will be no one can tell, hough some of the leaders of the House who have been redicated are in favor of an atringent lecislation. They say that the history of Mormonism illustrates the truth of the old adage, that the "blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church." When Mormonism has been let alone, they say, it has grown very slowly, if at all, but persecutions, whether in Ohio, or Illinois, or Utah, have invariably given it new life. Judge Strickland is not understood to contemplate resignation obscause of any differences with the Administration, though he favored the view taken of the notable case of the last year by District Attorney Bates and sustained by the Supreme Court, it is unable to administration of the proper maintainance of the court, it is unable to administer justice or enforce its decrees, and is therefore a dead letter, which he cannot endure, and further, that he cannot afford to be a judge for \$4,000 a year when he can make twice as much money by practicing at the late visit to Washington, tit is believed that he will go as fore a dead letter, which he cannot endure, and further that he cannot afford to be a judge for \$1,000 a year when he can make twice as much money by practicing at the her.

vernment Printing Office was laid yesterday, and Mr. Brisbane, the inventor, expresses himself well satisfied with the work as far as it has gone. This plan of propelling hollow spheres through a tube was fully explained and filustrated in TRE TRIBUNE a year or two ago, but the tube now constructing is the first effort to not the principle to a practical test. If this experiment put the principle to a practical test. If this experiment succeeds, Mr. Brisbane promises in a few years to deliver the New-York morning journals in all the principal cities of the Union east of the Mississippi River before 8 o'clock a. m., on the day of publication.

A majority of the members of the Senate Judiciary

Committee, including the Chairman, Mr. Edmunds, are known to be opposed to the bill which passed the House inst before the recess, to pay what is known as the House just before the recess, to pay what is known as the ftwo percent claim of Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois. Its defeat in the Senate looks probable, from the fact that almost its only support appears to come from the Senators representing the States interested in the claim.

Congress will be urged, during the present session, to remove the restriction which prevents appointments and promotions in most of the Army Staff Corps. This, it will be held, is really a necessity in the Medical Department; for, even when it is full, it is so small that ore then 150 physicians under contract have to be em ployed in addition to the commissioned medical officers of the army, to care for the officers and enlisted men stationed at the numerous posts throughout the country. These contract-surgeons cost the Government tas much as commissioned medical officers, are not subject to exas commissioned medical officers, are not subject to examination, and may resign at any time. There are now 80 vacancies in this department, and the President and Secretary of War have each called the attention of Congress to this matter. The Medical Department of the army, active and retired, has only 231 officers, 10 of whom hold rank above that of major. One of these is a brigadier general. The navy, only about one-fourth as large as the army, and having no greater necessity, in proportion to its size, has, active and retired, 137 medical officers, 50 of whom have rank above that of major. Of these, 17 hold rank equivalent to that of bigadier general.

WASHINGTON NOTES.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29, 1879. Strong efforts have been made recently to procure the abrogation or modification of the Internal Revenue circular No. 194, imposing a tax on sparkling and other cular No. 194, imposing a tax on sparkling and other wines manufactured from native wines, and providing for their confiscation whenever found without stamps. The Commissioner and Solicitor of Internal Revenue have now determined to replace said circular by a new one which will, when issued, establish substantially the following rule: Wine-makers may add to the pure juice of the grape whatever ingredient, and so much of it, as is added in Germany, France, and other wine-growing countries of Europe, in making what are there sold and with the knowledge of the additions are there accepted and used as pure wine, or, in other words, whatever is represented and accepted as pure wine in those countries will be regarded as pure wine in this country, and will require no stamps, the purpose of the Internal Revenue Bureau being to prevent the manufacturer from imposing upon the consumer by making a large quantity of wine from a smail quantity of pure wine by the addition of foreign substances.

The Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections will on the 10th of January resume their investigation o the charge against Senator Caldwell, that he was elected the charge against Senator Caldwell, that he was elected by the bribery of certain members of the Kansas Legisla-ture. The testimony taken by a committee of the Legis-lature is already before them. They will, at the time above stated, begin the examination of witnesses, the Sergeant-at-Arms having summoned about twenty per-sons for that purpose.

The New-Orleans Committee have printed their ad-

dress to the people of the United States relative to the Louisiana troubles, accompanied with an appendix quoting the laws in support of their position. Their memorial will be presented to Congress and an appeal made for the appointment of a committee to proceed to New-Orleans and ascertain all the facts in the case.

Senator Sumner is better in health than he was at the time of the adjournment of Congress, last week, and takes his usual out-door exercise daily. Dr. W. P. John on, his attending physician, calls to see him regularly, as hus been his habit of doing for some time.

The Commission to inquire into depredations of Mexicans on the Texas frontiers expect to leave Washington

on the 7th of January, to resume their labors. Mr. Meade, one of the Commissioners, has resigned.

The Secretary of the Treasury has authorized the Assistant Treasurer at New-York to buy one million of

bonds and to sell one million of coin each week during the month of January. The resignation of Gen. Francis A. Walker, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, was accepted to-day, to take effect Feb. 1, and not Jan. 1, the date for which it was tondered. WINTER VICISSITUDES.

THE SNOW BLOCKADE.

SPORT ON THE ROAD AND ON THE ICE-BROAD-WAY UNOBSTRUCTED - TRAINS AND MAILS ON TIME.

The Christmas storm is more lasting in its effects than similar bursts of Winter have been in the past. Business is still obstructed to some extent, and city transit is a matter of grave uncertainty; and although the Street-Cleaning Bureau has done excellent service in Broadway and at the entrance to the ferries many of the streets are practically closed to teamsters.

and along Harlem Lane. It seemed as if every sleigh in the city had been taken out, that the first good sleighing was filled from noon till dusk with two continuous lines of equipages, one going up and the other down. Between 2 and 5 p. m., 1,247 sleighs were counted at the Fifth-ave, entrance to the Park, and the estimate that 6,000entered in the course of the day seems not immoderate. Here and in the Park the pace was restricted to a sober jog-trot, but as the drivers turned from the Park into Harlem Lane the sport caught new sprit.

Sleighing; in the opinion of its votaries, is nothin without a race, and on Harlem-lane everybody races. At times there were half a dozen teams neck and neck; again two horses, famous on the road, would be pitted against each other, and would be greeted with cheers by those whom they passed in their rapid course. There were a large number of four-in-hands, harnessed to mag-nificent and expensive sleighs.

Both horses and drivers were filled with excitement and a number of accidents occurred, which, had the snow been less deep, might have proved serious. Two or three sleighs were upset in the Park and four in Fifthave., but the occupants suffered no injury from ther tossing in the snow, the runaway horses were easily captured by the police officers on duty, the sleighs were righted, rugs and bearskins readjusted, and each party again dashed away, their spirits in no wise daunted by

On Saturday skating was again resumed at all the regular reserts, the Park officials, both at Central and Prospect Parks, having had the snow cleaned off the lakes for the accommodation of skaters. . At Prospect first bridge, and yesterday from the small bridge to the temporary bridge, which will form the limit of the ing fields at present, as the snow has drifted heavily on the outer lakes. To-day all of the inner lakes will be open to the public at Prospect Park from early morning intil 11 p. m., the ponds being lighted up at night. The ice is in very fine condition, and is 10 inches in thickess, the water underneath being over four feet in

ice in front ot the buildings on Friday, and skating was had that afternoon and evening when it was not at command at any other park. On Saturday there was a large attendance, the pond being brilliantly illuminated at night. At the Hoboken Skating Park the sport will be resumed to-day.

The Brooklyn Curling Club was out on the large lake at Prospect Park on Saturday, practicing for the match with the Burns Club of this city.

BROADWAY WELL CLEARED. An attempt was made on Friday to eart the snow from the lower part of Broadway, but the results were meager, owing to the small number of carts at the disposal of the Street-Cleaning Bureau. On Saturday the owners of coal, ash, and garbage carts were informed that they would find employment by applying to Capt Saturday evening until this morning nearly every eart suitable for the work instead of leaning idly against the curp of a side street has been put to use in Broadway off the banks which have been thrown up by elearing the sidewalks, and thus level the street from curb to

The carts, when filled with lumps of snow, were taken to the nearest wharf and their contents dumped into the river. After Broadway was cleared from the Battery to Union-square, work was begun in Fifth ave, and the busiest side streets. Faitonst was beyond from Broadway to the ferry, and all the streets leading to the rail way stations and ferries. West-st, also, and the streets bounding Washington Market were freed from embankments. At about 250 p. m. yesterday work was begun in Park-row, and the stoppage of the cars of four lines in Chatham-st, and Park-row will now be at an end.

The work has been done very largely by the Italians who have recently become the unwelcome guests of the city; and they have thus acquired a novel experience early in their American life. Though the storm of last week is said to have been heavier than any known in New-York since 1868, the principal streets have many times been in a worse condition, for many days at a time, than they are this morning. The crossings have been cleared and the culverts opened, so that, in case of a thaw or a warm rain, the streets will not be flooded. The carts, when filled with lumps of snow, were taken

THE RAILEOADS OPEN.

The snow blockade on the railroads leading out of for the present. A TRIBUNE reporter visited, yesterday, the stations of the principal railroads, and, though most of the officials were absent, and it was difficult to obtain minute information in regard to the trains, the following minute information in regard to the trains, the following general statements may be regarded as trustworthy:

The Western Express train arrived on the Eric Rafl-way yesterday morning, only haif an hour behind time, and the evening express and the several local trains during the day left on time. The road was reported entirely free from obstructions. The trains will leave and arrive according to the time-table. The branch roads are also reported in good running order.

The Washington express arrived on the New-Jersey Railroad yesterday only a few minutes behind time, and the road is said to be clear. There will probably be a slight delay in the arrival of trains for a day or two, owing to the frosty condition of the rails.

The Morris and Essex, and the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroads dispatch no trains on Sunday.

The Central Railroad of New-Jersey was clear on Saturday afternoon, so that trains came through not much behind time. Gangs of men were employed resterday in removing the snow which had fallen back on the track and in widening the passage through the deepest cuts.

The New-York and New-Haven Railroad has been making very good time since the first train came through after the storm had ceased. On Saiurday the trains were from half an hour to an hour late, owing to new drifts which at some points formed in the cuts.

The New-York Central and Hadson River line is reported clear, and on Saturday only two engines were used on the express trains.

The drifts on the New-York and Harlem Railroad have been cleared away, and the snow has settled so, that it

The drifts on the New-tork and hardem tearroan mave been cleared away, and the snow has settled so, that it no longer drifts. There was little delay in the arrival of trains on Saturday and it is thought that to-day there will be no necessity for doubling up, and that trains will leave and arrive with the usual regularity.

BUSY SCENES IN THE POST-OFFICE. The accumulation of mails through the failure of trains from the West to make their proper connections created a blockade in the New-York Post-Office, which t required great labor to break. On Saturday the number of unopened mail bags was so great that a force of 100 men was kept at work all night distributing the letters and newspapers. The through mails by the Erie and the Pennsylvania Central Rullroads, due the night before, came in yesterday, and again the large open space in the Post-Office was filled with bags, piled one

space in the Post-Office was filled with bags, piled one above another. The day force who had taken the places of the weary night-workers, toiled faithfully in order that the merchants might have their mails this morning. As the pile of undistributed mails grew perceptably lower, the overland California mail, one day overdue, arrived, and was followed by 235 bags by the European steamer City of New-York, and the regular Havana mail by the steamer Havana. The clerks remained at their posts, and when the regular western mails by; the Eric and Central roads arrived they were nearly ready for them. By 10 o'clock last night the neld was clear. Extra express wagons were sent for to carry the mails to the several Post-Office stations for distribution at the houses; and this morning all the letters and bewapars which arrived at the central office last night, will be ready for delivery. The only mail now overdue is that of the steamer Cuba, which has put into Hallfax for coal.

The street-cars on most of the lines are now making trips with considerable regularity, and gangs of laborers are at work on the obstructed tracks. The movements

are at work on the obstructed tracks. The movements of the ferry-boats are very uncertain, as there are immense fields of ice in the rivers, through which the boats make their way slowly and with great difficulty.

The Brooklyn horse-car companies managed to remove most of the snow from their tracks on Saturday, and are now running with great regalarity. The Board of City Works has engaged an extra force of laborers, and will try to-day to cart away the huge mounds of snow which line either side of Fulton-at, from the ferry to City Hall-square.

snow which line citaer such it will ages of Staten I shad are
to City Hall-square.

Many of the streets in the villages of Staten I shad are
still blocked up with snow. In other cases a way has
been opened through the center of the street, while the
sidewalks remain uncleared. The managers of the Shore
Railroad, have abandoned the attempt to clear their
track, and have started a line of sieighs between Port
Wadsworth and Port Richmond, which is well patrontend

The sound between Saten I amboy boats have to take the outside route. The People's and the James Ferry Company's North Shore boats are running, but experience much difficulty from the floating ice. The boats running between the island and New-York made their trips yesterday, but were somewhat behind time.

At Newark, N. J., most of the street failroads are run-

ning ears by the use of double teams. The Irvington line is using ski gifs.

The Long Island Railroad was cleared of snow only as far as Riverhead on Saturday. It is expected that the remaining 20 miles to Greenport will be opened by to-day. Several of the best locomotives on the road have been disabled to breaking up the snow, and are now in the repair shops.

INCIDENTS OF THE STORM.

On Saturday night a train of freight cars, about to take the switch near Pen Horn City, a short distance west of Bergen Tunnel, became separated, leaving sev eral cars on the westward-bound track. Before the train could be connected and the cars removed, express train No. 3, consisting of several baggage, passenger and sleeping cars, and drawn by two becomotives, came dashing along in the darkness and collided with the freight cars with such force as to smash up three or four of them into fragments. The forward engine, No. 100, of the express train, was also badly damaged and was thrown from the track into a deep dutch on the side of the read. Strange to say, no one was injured, though all on the train were considerably shocked. Had the freight cars been leaded, instead of empty, the accident must have been attended with very heavy damage as well as loss of life. could be connected and the cars removed, express train

been attended with very heavy damage as well as loss of life.

After was started in the kitchen range of the home of a Dr. Campbell, at No. 148 East One-hundred-and-fifteenthest, on Saterday night at 6 o'clock. Half an hour afterward, while Mrs. Campbell was standing near the range, the water back sudd nily burst and scattered the bolling water and burning cinders over her face and hands. The doctor's son, standing near by, was also severely burned. The injuries of Mrs. Campbell were so severely burned. The injuries of Mrs. Campbell were so severely burned. The injuries of Mrs. Campbell were so severely burned. The injuries of Mrs. Campbell were so severely burned. The injuries of Mrs. Campbell was suffering. The cause of the explosion is supposed to have been due to the freezing of the pipes and the overheating of the range. Mrs. Campbell was 35 years old, and until recently lived in Brooklyn.

The police burst into the shanty at Richard and Dikeman-sts., Brooklyn, on Saturday night, and found an old woman named Elizabeth Beek'er lying dead on the floor. She had ded from the effects of cold and hanger, and had been missed for soveral days.

OCEAN WRECKS AND RISKS.

LOSS OF THE AMYNTAS ON THE ENGLISH COAST. LONDON, Dec. 28 .- The Amyntas was lost while on a voyage from Holyhead for Washington, and every person on board perished. A severe gale prevailed in the English Channel yesterday. Several marine

WRECK OF THE BENARES IN THE CHINA SEA. LONDON, Dec. 28.-A dispatch from Hong Kong says the ship Benares, Capt. Anderson, which left that port Sept. 12 for San Francisco, went ashere on one of the Loo Choo Islands, and became a wreck. All the crew were drowned except five. The English gunboat Carlew has gone to the spot to render whatever assistance may

THE BRIG TEMPEST SUNK OFF CAPE HATTERAS. Annapolits, Dec. 28.-Erastus Wells, chief officer of the brig Tempest, from Milk River, Jamaica, for New-York, with logwood, reports that on the night of Dec. 18, off Cape Hatteras, his vessel came in collision with the brig Icha of Bremen. The shock was so violent that the Tempest was almost instantly sunk. The ter, Henry Wilson, went down in her, but the rest of the crew got aboard the Icka and were brought to this port. The Icka is from Demerara, for Baltimore. She lost her bowsprit, fore topmast, and main topmast, and is now in the ice off Annapolis.

DISASTERS ON THE MASSACHUSETTS COAST. Boston, Dec. 29.-The ship Peruvian, from Singapore, ashere on Cape Cod, has been broken into fragments. Three bodies have been recovered, one that of Thomas H. Baine, the first mate. The rubber with which she was taden is constantly washed upon the beach and saved under the direction of the underwriter's About 1,000 bales of hemp have been brought ashore

from the wreck of the bark Kadosh at Point Alderton The booles of Capt. Matthews and the seven seamen los The Bosineso Capit, statutows are the bosineso cape to the German bark Francis, from Singapore, ashore on Cape Cod, has worked further upon the beach. There is not much water in her. The steamer Charles Pearson arrived alongside, on Sanday moreling with lighters, and begun discharging the cargo. Capit Korning of the Francis, died on Saturday night.

MOVEMENTS OF STEAMERS.

The steamship Adriatic of the White Star line reached this port on Dec. 21, after a very rough passage, by which she was reported to have lost "two and a part of a third blate of her propeller," with the result damage comes from the ship's official log, but her agents claim that an examination has been made, and that only

Accepting even this statement, the company was loth supplied in this country without enermous expense, it would have been done. Having had her thoroughly ex amined by divers, and having taken the opinion of experts, and these agreeing that there would be little risk in sending her to sea, it was at last decided to do so on Sauranay, her regular saning day. Accordingly, the company's agents throughout the country were telegraphed to, and ordered to lay the facts of the case before persons inteneing to take passage in her, so that they might go or not, as their judgment dictared. Shippers of freight and the Postmuster-General were also informed. Eighteen cabin and 50 steerage passengers decided to go, and the vessel dropped down the bay on Saturday afternoon as usual.

In view of the fact that the vessel is comparatively a new one; that the winds of the North Atlantic are at the present season generally westward, so that the vessel's canyas may be much depended upon; and that the vessel's amined by divers, and having taken the opinion of ex-

new one; that the winds of the North Attanta are at the present season genorally westward, so that the vessel's canvas may be much depended upon; and that the caswas clearly stated beforeigned, so that shippers and passengers could patronize the vessel or not as they chose, the company can hardly be condemned for taking

this course.

The great value of the vessel, which is partly insured by the company, and the fact that the American agent sent is her \$30,000 in gold, uninsured, are evidences that the company regard her as seaworthy. Her captain is also said to be an able commander, and she is well officered and has a full crow. The news of her safe arrival well, however, be annously awaited.

will, however, be anxiously awaited.

The steamer Thuringla, of the New-York and Hamburg line, which was due on Thesday last, arrived one Saturday morning. Capt. Meyer, who has been crossing the Atlantic for 20 years, states that he has never experienced such botsterous weather as that of the present time.

trip.
The steamship Oceanic of the White Star line arrived

The steamship Oceanie of the White Star line arrived on the same norming, four days behind time.

The Imman steamer City of New York left Liverpool in company with the Oceanie, and has not yet arrived.

The Baltic Lioyds' steamer Franklin, where was due at this port Dec. 21, put into Halifax on Friday, short of coal, sailed thence on Saturday, and will be due here on Tuesday. Blee has 330 passengers on board.

The steamer Greece of the National Line left Liverpool in company with the Wisconsin, but has not yet arrived.

The steamer Erip, also of the National Line which here

The steamer Erin, also of the National Line, which les Havre on Dec. 10, has not yet arrived. She is a slow yessel, which, with the storm, is probably the cause of her being behindhand. her being belindhand.

The steamers Cuba and Siberia, of which the former left Laverpool Dec. 14, and was due here on Thursday last, reached Halfax, on Saturday, short of coal.

The steamer Victoria of the Auchor Line which left Glasgow on Dec. 18, and was due here on Friday, is also overdue.

SNOW AND ICE DANGERS. THE AVALANCHE IN UTAH.

SALT LAKE CITY, Dec. 27 .- But little additional intelligence has been received concerning the Cottonwood avalanche. It is asserted that 12 men are missing. The slide came from the mountain, a distance of a mile, with frightful speed and force. The storm prevented any warning of its approach until it was upon the lines of teams passing at the point where it crossed the road. Men, mules, wagons, and sacks of ore were carried away like straws. The body of snow where the ferce of shovelers are at work is very large, and excava-tion is very slow. One dead body was recovered to-day. The storm continues, with rain here and snow in the

THE MISSISSIPPI ICE-GORGE -- MORE TROUBLE FRARED. MEMPHIS, Dec. 28 .- The weather has mod-

erated very much this afternoon, and the ice is thinning out considerably, but the river is rising steadily. Steamboat men are still apprehensive of danger, although the condition of the boats at the landing is unchanged. The work of wrecking the sunken boats is proceeding.

LAYER.-The river is still rising. It is now feared LATER.—The river is still rising. It is now feared that, if the rise continues, an immeuse field of ice at the month of Woif River will be swept down against the houts at the levee with irresistible force. All the heats that have fuel have steam up. The Gas Company has made arrangements to receive five car-loads of coal daily, which, with the present supply, will enable them to meet the demand for gas. The pripe of coal has advanced \$1.50 per barrel, steps have been taken to prevent suffering among the poor.

MEMPHIS, Dec. 22.—The river has been falling since 3 colorly the afternoon, but no new dispater has occurred.

o'clock this afternoon, but no new disaster has occurred. The little steamers Helen Brooks and Summer Koon bollers will be saved.

All the freight on the Belle of Pike has been saved er. cept about 100 bales of cotton. She is gradually settling,

and will prove a total loss. Only the cabin furniture will be saved.

The condition of the ateamers Cleburne, Excelsior, and Nellie Thomas and the dry docks is unchanged, but is now regarded as less critical?

It is now believed that the gas companies will have little or no trouble in supplying the demand for gas.

FOREIGN NEWS.

HEALTH OF THE CZAROWITZ, HE IS REPORTED OUT OF DANGER-THE FEVER

STILL CONTINUING. St. Petersburg, Saturday, Dec. 28, 1872.

It is officially announced that the Czarowitz s now out of danger.

LATER.—The Court physicians have issued a bulletin stating that the feverishness of the Czarowitz has some-what increased to-day. During the night he perspired,

and had four and a haif hours' uninterrupted sleep. He

is stronger to-day than he was yesterday. ST. PETERSBURG, Dec. 29, 1372. The physicians' bulletin, dated 11 o'clock this morning, states that the Czarowitz passed a quiet night, having had five thours of uninterrupted sleep. The fever had neither increased nor decreased. The patient's condi-tion as to strength was satisfactory.

THE FRENCH ASSEMBLY.

FRUITLESS DISCUSSIONS ON THE REORGANIZA-TION OF THE ASSEMBLY-REFUSAL OF PRO-VINCIAL MAYORS TO PLACARD M. DU-FAURE'S SPEECH.
PARIS. Saturday, Dec. 28, 1872.

The second sub-committee of the Commitee of Thirty of the National Assembly met, yesterday, to consider the proposition of M. Barthe, a Republican Deputy, for the formation from the present Assembly of a separate legislative body, to be called the Section of Control, and also other modes for forming an Upper Chamber. After a resultless discussion of three hours duration the Committee adjourned until Friday next. One of the sub-committees of the Committee of Thirty called upon M. Thiers, to-day, and a courteous and conciliatory conversation ensued on the various proposals for constitutional reform now before the Committee. There were no concessions on either side. The President urged the creation of a second Legislative Chamber, but

made no distinct proposal in reference thereto. The Mayors of several of the Communes of France have refused to placard the speech of M. Dufaure, Minister of Justice, delivered in the National Assembly during the debate two weeks ago on the petitions for the hissolution of that body. M. Dufaure, in his remarks, spoke ironically of M. Gambetta, whose speeches, he said, were the cause of the needless agitations throughout the country; and the Assembly, by resolution, directed the placarding of the speech. It is probable that the action of the Mayors, in refusing to placard it, will lead to an interpellation of the Government upon the meeting of the Assembly after the holidays.

A Paris tradesman has been sent to prison for two years for displaying in his shop placards containing remarks insuiting to the National Assembly.

CHURCH AND STATE IN EUROPE. THE ALLOCUTION OF THE POPE STIGMATIZED AS

AN INSULT TO THE EMPEROR OF GERMANY —RESIGNATION OF THE FRENCH EMBASSADOR TO THE VATICAN. BERLIN, Saturday, Dec. 28, 1872.

The Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung stigmatizes the allocution of the Pope, delivesed at the Consist ory held in Rome on the 23d inst., asjan unpardonable in sult to the Emperor of Germany. The colossal impudence of the Pope, says The Gazette, proves the inevitable necessity for the immediate passage of a law defining the boundaries between the State and the Roman Catholic

M. Bourgoing, the French Embassador to the Papal Court, has resigned because some French naval officers in Rome, at the beginning of the holidays, called on the King and the Pope on the same day, and tendered the compliments of the season. The Monarchists seek to make political capital out of the affair. The Union publishes an address, praising the minister's act as a striking disavowal of the policy which would abandon the Holy Father to spoliation and insult.

SUCCESSION TO THE THRONE OF BRUNS-WICK.

THE EX-KING OF HANOVER OR HIS SON TO BE COME DUKE-OPPOSITION IN GERMANY. BERLIN, Saturday, Dec. 28, 1872.

The Spener'sche Zeitung strongly opposes a decree of the Brunswick Council of Ministers, issued on the 6th of December, providing that upon the demise of e present Sovereigu, Duke William, the ex-King of Hanover, or his son, shall succeed to the throne. The extinct, as the present Sovereign, who is 66 years old, is unmarried. His only brother, whom he succeeded, fled the Duchy on the breaking out of the riot in the City of Brunswick, Sept. 8, 1830, and was afterward declared by a resolution of the German Diet, "unfit to govern."

THE LATE WAR IN EUROPE.

THE ATTITUDE OF AUSTRIA—EFFECT OF THE DIS

CLOSURES OF THE DUKE DE GRAMONT. LONDON, Dec. 29, 1872. The Austrian, French, and Prussian news-

papers are engaged in a lively controversy over the dis-closures made by the Duke de Gramont in regard to the dence to support the truth of his assertion that Austria promised to assist France in case of war with Prussia. He publishes au Austrian dispatch to the French Government, in which the pledge is given in the following words: "Your cause is ours. We will contribute to the success of the French arms." It is reported that the Austrian Government has determined to dispense alto-

gether with the services of Count von Beust.

AN ELECTION QUARREL AT TAMPICO-EIGHT PERSONS KILLED AND MORE WOUNDED.

MATAMOROS. Dec. 28 .- The election for mu nicipal officers at Tampico is reported to have passed off in a very disorderly manner. During the counting of e votes a disturbance arose, during which eight per vailed. The opposing parties style themselves the Tam picienos and Tamilpoes, and each claim to have won the election.

SUCCESSES OF THE INSURGENTS IN CUBA. TOWN OF MAYARI ENTERED, BUT AFTERWARD ABANDONED-THE TOWN OF HOLGUIN CAP TURED AND PARTIALLY SACKED.

HAVANA, Dec. 28-The insurgents attacked Mayari on the night of the 17th inst. The town was in a defenseless condition, the regulars and volunteers being absent. The man-of-war Hulva landed her marines and sailors, who drove out the insurgents-not, however, before the latter had sacked several houses. In the attack twenty Spaniards were killed. The insurgents succeeded in carrying off their dead and wounded.

About 11 o'clock on the night of the 19th, during the absence of the troops on an expedition, the insurgents, under the command of Vicente Garcia, entered the town of Holguin and captured Fort Perriquers. The Holguin colunteers had been previously ordered to march into the fort to replace the troops withdrawn, and as approached, not aware that it had fallen into the hands of the enemy, they received a heavy fire from the insur

The volunteers and a few regulars subsequently at tacked the insurgents, and messengers were dispatched to recall the troops. Operations were suspended until to recall the troops. Operations were suspended until daylight of the 20th, when the insurgents withdrew, after sacking air establishments and a number of private houses. A Spanish Lieutenant-Colonel, a Major, and several other efficers were killed. The reports as to the total loss of the Spaniards are condicting, some placing the figures as high as 60 killed.

The Spanish account acknowledges 20 killed. The troops are moving rapidly in pursuit of Garcia, anxious to average the death of their comrades. Full particulars of the affair are wanting. Seventeen insurgents surrendered at Trimdad on Friday. Gen. Riquolme has established his headquarters for the campaign at Puerto Principe. It is reported that Gen. Ceballos will return to Spain uppon the arrival of Gen. Cordova.

FOREIGN NOTES. It is expected that 72,000 British coal miners

will strike work on the 1st of January.

The Madrid Imparcial says Gen. Pieltain will probably be appointed Captain-General of the Island After the 1st of January, persons entering

Germany from France will not be required to provide themselves with passports. The pleuro-pneumonia has become epidemic in the villages of Prussia and Belgium, near the line separating those two countries.

France will pay Germany \$40,000,000 of the war indemnity on the 1st of January, and will pay The small-pox is spreading in many of the country towns int Nova-Scotia. In: Yarmouth all the

churchess, schools, and other places of public resort are The Paris Gazette says Prussia is treating

with Portugal for the cession to the former Power of Delagoa Bay, an inlet in the Indian Ocean, in South

The Norddcutsche Allgemeine Zeitung denies the statement that Germany has consented to cowith Austria and Russia in an effort to effect a settle-ment of the Laurium Sliver Mines' dispute.

The Intendente at Havana has made public number of fraudulent entries in the Custom-house, also the names of officials implicated in the frauds. These exposures cause much excitement among office-holders and merchants. It is reported that the Intendente will return to Spain shortly. His efforts to abolish revenue frauds have been partially successful.

OBITUARY.

DEAN RAMSAY. A cable telegram announces the death of Dean Ramsay of Edinburgh, widely known as an author and churchman. He was the fourth son of the late Su A. Ramsay, Bart., of Balmain, Scotland, and was born in 1793. He was graduated Master of Arts at Cambridge in 1831, and entered the ministry of the Protestant Epis copal Church, receiving, in 1841, the Deanery of Edin burgh. In 1857 he published his "Reminiscences of Scottish Life and Character," which was so popular as to pass through eight editions in two years, besides two in this country. It attained the 13th edition in 1868, and "Pulpit Table Talk: Containing Remarks and Anec dotes," another well-read book. In 1861 he published a second series of Reminiscences, and besides wrote from time to time a number of works of a theological and

was held in regard by clergymen of other d D. O'C. TOWNLEY.

scriptural character. He was tolerant in his views, and

D. O'C. Townley, business manager of the Grand Opera House, died in this city, on Saturday. Ho was born at Newry, in the North of Ireland, in December, 1831, received a liberal education, and was a ed tributor to London and Dublin periodicals. He came to this country in 1860, and was for a few years on the staf of The New-York Times, previous to the establishment of The Evening Mail, when he resigned to accept an editorial position on that journal. He contributed occ sional articles to Scribner's Magazine and wrote humor-ous sketches under the nom de plume of "Alderman Rooney." He retired from journalism some months ago to act as Mr. Daly's business manager at the Grand Opera House. His associates speak of him in terms of warm appreciation.

POLITICAL NOTES.

The Dayton (Ohio) Journal is highly pleased with the situation of affairs in Louisiana.

The Memphis Appeal thinks it the "vernest bosh to talk of an empire in the United States." In its opinion, Gen. Grant desires another term far more than he does an empire. A Mobile newspaper, on the con-trary, evidently driven to desperation by too much "reconstruction," promises the President its "best blood" for the establishment of an empire if he will only rid the South of its two curses, the carpet-bagger and the scalawag.

Judging from the following paragraph in The Muscatine (Iowa) Journal, the administration of affairs in the Rev. Senator Harlan's State is not so benefi-cent as it might be: "It is a lamentable fact that the treasury of our State is empty, and that warrants issued by the Auditor on the Treasurer are bawked about at a discount. It has been our pride, as a citizen of Iowa, to be able to say that our State was out of debt, with money in the treasury, and a tax of only two mills on the dollar."

The Philadelphia Press speaks in this re freshingly plain way of the deplorable state of political affairs in Louisiana: "Really Judge Durell of Louisiana would be more at home in Russia, or some other despotie and illiberal empire, than in the United States and as a Circuit Judge. His last exploit is the suppre-sion of The New-Orleans Times on a flinsy pretext, trumped up for the occasion. It is time the Suprems Court interfered in Louisiana. The condition of that miserable State is now little better than that of a Chi-

There is a great deal of truth in this merited buke to the Massachusetts Legislature, which we find in The Portland (Me.) Argus: " There is one very smal virtue in the merciless Massachusetts hounds. They are so bigoted and intolerant that, conceiving one of their own number to be wrong, they turn upon him and seek to destroy him. So now the whole pack turn upon Charles Summer because he can see beyond them. The same spirit sent Roger Williams away into the wilderness, and strung up poor old women as witches. That sentiment of intolerance and meanness has always characterized Massachusetts, and made many men almost regret their New-England nativity, despite its proud record for sturdy pluck, indomitable purpose, and high intelligence. But time makes all things even, and it will require but very little of it for all to recognize the purity of purpose and noble generosity of Mr. Summer as a representative of manly Northern sentiment."

A FATAL CHRISTMAS QUARREL.

John O'Hare died at No. 303 East Fortyfixth-st., last night, where he was cut on the head with a hatchet by John Fitzgibbons, a fellow boarder, on Christmas Eve. The men were intoxicated in the early part of the evening mentioned, and after going to their rooms began to quarrel.

O'Hare locked his door and refused admittan Fitzgibbons, who, after demanding that the door should be opened to him at last in a great passion, rushed against it and broke it down. O'Hare now became an gry and ordered Fitzgibbons out of the room. The command was obeyed, but O'Hare was not satisfied, and

mand was obeyed, but O Hare was not satisfied, and soon demanded satisfaction for the insult which had been offered him.

Fitzgibbons, on hearing these words, took up a hatchet from the floor and struck the defenseless man on the head. O'Hare fainted from loss of blood, and hardly recovered consciousness from the moment he received his wounds until he died. Fitzgibbons was arrested by the Nineteenth Precinct Police.

PROBABLE WIFE-MURDER.

At 10 o'clock last night, Chas. Kellner, a German, age 34, had a quarrel with his wife Annie, at their residence, No. 343 Bushwick-ave., Brooklyn, and stabbed her several times with a knife used by him in his business as basket maker. One of the wounds penetrated the right side and will prove fatal, as the physicians entertain no hopes of her recovery. Kellner was arrested by Officer Drum of the Sixth Precinct.

A BRUTAL MURDER IN KENTUCKY.

LOUISVILLE, Dec. 28 .- Levi King and Richard Baker lived in Arnoldtown, about 13 miles from this city. On Thursday they went to a store in that vicinity, and bought a dress and some trinkets. The men left the store together, but Baker failed to come home, and yes-terday his body was found in a ditch about a mile from the store. He had been stabbed to the heart, and his head and face beaten and bruised beyond recognition. A brother of the dead man identified the body by the clothing. King was arrested and the dress purchased by Baker was found in his house. A knife was found on King's person, one blade of which corresponds with the wound in Baker's breast. King denies all knowledge of the murder, and says Baker got drunk and he left him asleep under a hay-stack. The prisoner is neid for a further examination.

CRIMES AND CASUALTIES-BY TELEGRAPH. .. The steam tannery of Burke, Fender & Co., riggills, Kr., apposite Portamouth, Okio, was destroyed by 44 day. Loss, \$25,000; insurance, \$19,000.

. Henry Williams, employed at the Thomaston ry Potterille, Pean, while cetting ice slipped and fel. 600 feet, a instantly killed and his body serribly mangied.

....The Adrian Car Shops, at Adrian, Mich., with air new coardes, were burned, Prilay night. The loss is \$15,000. One bondered and sity ness are thrown out of employment. The fire originated in the paint-shop. A fire at Abington, Knox County, Ill., Friday

....James Venters and Andrew Diles, workmen in a Beliebate Iron Works, at Ironton, Onio, were scaled to death, on rider, while steaming a boiler. The engineer, supposing the boiler had an discountered, turned to the steam while the men wore in it.

....The British bark J. B. Duifus, at Charles, C., for Bramen, with 2,349 bales of Upiand cotton on beard, to starday night in the cotton forward, and was filled with water agines and sunh at the wharf. The damage to the carge by salt

is large.

Theodore Jones, living a few miles from Indianapolis, hilled his wife by a blow of his fat, Friday night. He was arrested Sanarday....Theodore Brown, a farmer, living in Hendricha County lad., Blied his wife, as Thursday, by striking her on the head with a shale, while under the indianase of layers.